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LETTER DATED 30 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the allegations made in the letter dated 18 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations (S/1997/562), I wish to inform you of the facts of the incident that occurred on 6 July 1997:

1. At 5 a.m. on 6 July 1997, the Kuwaiti border police in charge of protecting the oil well tower between boundary pillars 91 and 92 fired at a 24-year-old Iraqi farmer named Hazim Abd al-Husein Mahan, a resident of the village of al-Kharda in the Safwan district, killing him in the Iraqi part of the demilitarized zone. The Iraqi side did not open fire on the Kuwaiti border policemen.

2. The competent Iraqi authorities informed UNIKOM and made a protest about the incident. UNIKOM conducted an inquiry, questioning the local inhabitants about the details of the incident, taking a sample of the victim's blood from the ground, inspecting the scene of the incident and photographing the traces of the bullets fired by the Kuwaiti border policemen which were found on the buildings.

Iraq holds Kuwait fully responsible for this incident and for the damage caused.

We wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm Iraq's commitment to the rules of the demilitarized zone and its serious efforts to ensure the prevalence in the zone of security and stability. We point out that it is the Kuwaiti side that provokes these incidents and attacks Iraqi citizens in order to exacerbate the situation in the demilitarized zone.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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